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Reply to: Tampa, Florida

September 28, 2001

NINE CHARGED WITH SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

On September 27, 2001, a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Tampa, Florida, returned seven indictments charging Tampa Bay area residents with Social Security benefit fraud. The grand jury charged:

Roy Monlin, Jr. age 53, with theft of public money and forging United States Treasury checks;

John P. Boosalis, age 59, of Clearwater, Florida, with theft of public money and making a false statement to the Social Security Administration;

Julia A. Chason, age 43, formerly of New Port Richey ,Florida, with theft of public money, making a false statement to the Social Security Administration and using a false Social Security number;

Elizabeth Summers, age 72, of Lithia, Florida, with theft of public money;

Leslie Perez, age 33, of Sarasota, Florida, with theft of public money and fraudulent failure to disclose a disqualifying event to the Social Security Administration;

Deloris Hilliard, age 46, of Brandon, Florida, with theft of public money; and Lloyd Gill, age 43, of Largo, Florida, with theft of public money.

Also charged in criminal informations filed yesterday are Cynthia Power, age 51, and Thomas Sauer, age 60, both of St. Petersburg, Florida. Both are charged with theft of public money from the Social Security Administration.

Theft of public money and forgery of Treasury Checks each carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum punishment for each of the other counts is five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

All these cases were investigated by Special Agents from the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement affiliated with the Government Program Fraud Task Force. The Task Force, formed to combat fraud against the United States government, is comprised of Special Agents from the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration; Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and a Postal Inspector.

Assistant United States Attorneys Katherine Ho and Robert Mosakowski will prosecute these cases.

Indictments and informations are not in themselves evidence of any crime; rather they are merely formal charges that a defendant has committed a violation of the Federal criminal law, and all persons are presumed to be innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.